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THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF WORKING PEOPLE

VOL. 69/NO. 32 AUGUST 22, 2005

INSIDE

'New International' selling like hotcakes at world youth festival

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Cuban Five win new trial as U.S. court voids convictions

BY PAUL PEDERSON

In a victory in the struggle to win freedom for five Cuban revolutionaries who have spent the last seven years in U.S. prisons on frame-up charges, the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta ruled August 9 that they had not received a fair trial. The three-judge panel threw out their convictions and ordered a new trial in another city because of "pervasive community prejudice" in Miami, where the men were tried in 2001, and improper remarks by the prosecution.

The reversal of the convictions means that legally "my client is innocent now," attorney Paul McKenna told a telephone news conference just hours after the decision was issued. McKenna represents Gerardo Hernández, one of the Cuban Five, as they are known by their supporters.

"The first thing I will be focusing on is to get him out of that maximum security prison. He is not convicted

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15,000 at opening of world youth festival in Caracas, Venezuela

BY ARGIRIS MALAPANIS AND JACOB PERASSO

CARACAS, Venezuela—The 16th World Festival of Youth and Students opened here August 8. More than 15,000 youth from 144 countries around the world took part in the inaugural ceremony.

The theme of the festival is "For peace and solidarity, we fight against imperialism and war." Many of the youth here have been involved in struggles for national liberation, for women's equality, against racism, to organize unions, and against imperialist wars. They have come together to exchange experiences and discuss how they can be more effective in their struggles.

About 12,000 delegates have come from across the Americas. Some 3,500 are from Venezuela. The other large delegations are from Colombia, with 2,100; Cuba, with 1,800; and about 700 each from Brazil, Ecuador, and the United States.

"We are here to denounce U.S. colonialism and to say loud and clear, 'Independence for Puerto Rico,'" said Arnaldo González, a Puerto Rican university student, as the delegation of 150 from that country marched outside the Fort Tiuna military barracks on the eastern edge of Caracas.

"Freedom for Sahara, Polisario will win!" chanted a contingent of 100 youth from Western Sahara in the opening parade. "We've been involved in a fight for national liberation for 30 years," Said

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Socialists on L.A. ballot for city council

Supporters of Diana Newberry, Socialist Workers Party candidate for Los Angeles City Council District 14, were notified August 6 that she will be on the ballot, following a successful petition drive. A day earlier the Socialist Workers campaign in Los Angeles announced that it is running Seth Dellinger for City Council District 10. Both are meat packers.

Atlanta: thousands march to extend Voting Rights Act

Protest new Georgia law requiring photo ID to vote



Militant/Maceo Dixon

More than 13,000 marched August 6 in Atlanta in action to back extension of key provisions of 1965 Voting Rights Act and oppose new attacks like voter ID law.

BY BILL ARTH

ATLANTA—Thousands of marchers, overwhelmingly working people, filled the streets of downtown Atlanta August 6 in a demonstration demanding the renewal of key provisions of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Participation was mostly Black, with large contingents from trade unions such as the United Food and Commercial Workers, UNITE-HERE, United Auto Workers, Service Employees International Union, and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. A sea of marchers wore NAACP T-shirts.

Many demonstrators were high school and college students. Also present were Black farmers who have been fighting to keep their land and protesting federal government discrimination. Among the demonstrators were those demanding the prosecution of lynchers

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New York meat packers strike; demand back pay, protest firings

BY DAN FEIN

FARMINGDALE, New York—Union meat packers went on strike here July 28 to demand back wages and to protest firings of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) members by BMW Meats, a chicken and beef processing plant in this Long Island town.

In face of a solid picket line, the company by the end of the week gave each of the 25 strikers one week's pay in cash. Workers say they are determined to continue their strike until they are paid in full and fired workers are reinstated.

"The paychecks started bouncing two months ago," said Marta Fialos, a worker with 12 years in the plant, who was holding a copy of one of the bounced checks. "And then, on top of that, the bank would charge us $10

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UK gov't uses 'antiterror' drive to probe against political rights

BY TONY HUNT

LONDON—Prime Minister Anthony Blair announced at an August 5 press conference a package of proposals that, if implemented, represent further probes against political rights since the July 7 bombings here. "Let no one be in any doubt the rules of the game are changing," he said, justifying these moves as part of the government's "war on terrorism."

Several of the moves require parliamentary approval; others can be enforced today but are expected to face court challenges. The measures were backed by the Labour and Conservative parties. They were criticized by Charles Kennedy, leader of the Liberal

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Also Inside:

Another explosion rocks BP's Texas City refinery

BY JACQUIE HENDERSON AND STEVE WARSHELL

TEXAS CITY, Texas—"I was sitting right here when I heard the loud boom and I thought, 'Here we go again,'" said Esther Gomez, describing the violent blast from the British Petroleum (BP) refinery here July 28 that sent black smoke into the air for more than eight hours.

Gomez, a laundry worker, has lived in this city for more than 30 years. She spoke with *Militant* reporters July 31 in her living room, less than a mile from the plant. "Last March was the worst, but I have seen so many over the years," she said.

The latest blast took place in the plant's Resid Hydrotreating Unit, which combines heavy crude oil with hydrogen. Just over four months earlier, on March 23, a series of explosions in another unit killed 15 workers and injured 170 others.

Crude futures surpassed $62 a barrel in early August following this latest explosion. The day before a fire shut down Murphy Oil Corp.'s diesel hydrotreater at its Meraux, Louisiana, refinery. BP reported $12.2 billion in profits for the first half of the year.

Following the March 23 blast the company sought to lay the blame on the workers, firing as many as six employees alleging that they did not follow proper procedures. This time around, BP officials again were quick to scapegoat workers, declaring they would investigate whether contract or union workers had installed a pipe elbow in the wrong grade of steel.

Workers at the refinery have been the target of a more than 15-year antiunion drive, resulting in the combining of jobs, speedup, longer hours, and cutting corners on safety equipment, training, and equipment maintenance. During the 1990s, Amoco, which then owned the plant, cut the number of union workers by 19 percent. BP has since slashed an additional 18 percent, bringing the union workforce down to below 1,100.

BP leads the oil industry in the United States in deaths on the job over the last decade, with 22 killed since 1995—19 in the last 18 months.

Just minutes before the July 28 BP explosion, which was classified as a level 3 city emergency, the Dow Chemical plant next door issued a level 2 alert following a leak at its isopropanol unit.

"We are sitting on a time bomb here," said Gomez.

Canada: chemical workers strike to defend jobs



Militant/Bev Bernardo

MAITLAND, Ontario—A strike by more than 380 members of Communication, Energy and Paperworkers Union Local 28-0 at Invista Maitland is into its third month, with no sign of a settlement in sight.

The chemical company is aiming to eliminate jobs by lengthening the workweek, and allowing unionists to be laid off before contract workers. The bosses also propose that certain shift premiums be canceled or reduced. Pickets reported that the company's stance has only increased solidarity among the workers.

—BEVERLY BERNARDO

'Give me a job and I won't be homeless'

BY LEA BOCKMAN

ATLANTA—Atlanta's former jail opened its doors in mid-July offering "salvation instead of cells." This is Mayor Shirley Franklin's and business leaders' answer to the problem of homelessness.

The $5 million facility will provide 300 beds and some food and health services. Franklin said, "It will go down in history, in my opinion, as one of the best examples of community collaboration. I believe it will be a model for others to follow."

The facility opened even as the Atlanta city council was debating a proposed ban on panhandling downtown, specifically in a tourist area.

The crackdown would make it illegal to voice a request for cash or other valuables—even food—anywhere within "a tourist triangle."

About 300 people attended a July 18 city council debate on this issue. Supporters of the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Atlanta, James Harris, gave out a statement there opposing the ban and talked to workers about the party's platform.

One worker was roundly applauded when he told the city council, "Give me a job and I won't be homeless."

Several speakers mentioned the need for affordable housing.

"The housing crisis is a permanent feature of capitalism," Harris pointed out. "It exists in every capitalist country and there is no Atlanta or 'American' solution to the problem. In the United States, there is no general shortage of housing—there is a shortage of affordable housing for working people. What workers face is the grab for profits by the billionaires who control the housing market. In Atlanta, there is actually a building boom taking place in luxury condos, and gated communities. Working people must demand a massive federally funded public works program that can address the housing crisis and put millions to work at union scale."

This social crisis is a union question, Harris explained. Above all, workers need unions that will organize a fight for jobs, against attacks on wages and social benefits, and for affordable housing.

"Our campaign begins with the needs of working people in the world," Harris added. "I am speaking out against the drive by Washington to prevent nations oppressed by imperialism from developing the energy sources that are necessary for economic development. Imagine how much further along the workers and farmers in semicolonial countries would be if imperialism did not prevent them from doing so. That is why our campaign supports their efforts to acquire and develop all sources of energy—including nuclear power—which are a necessity for solving problems such as housing, health care, and jobs."

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Pacific Islands: Send NZ$55 to P.O. Box 3025, Auckland, New Zealand.

Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant*'s views. These are expressed in editorials.

World Youth Festival opens in Venezuela

Continued from front page
Bah Ali, a leader of the Polisario Front youth, told the *Militant.* The Polisario Front has been leading the struggle for independence and against the occupation of that West African country, first by Spanish imperialism and currently by Moroccan troops. "We are up against not only the Moroccan monarchy but U.S. and French imperialism. We are here to ask for support."

A few hundred youth have come from nine countries in Africa. Delegates from another 14 African countries had registered but were unable to attend due to economic difficulties, festival organizers reported.

About 1,600 have arrived from two dozen countries in Europe. Participation is relatively sparse from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet republics, where most of the youth festivals were held until the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s. Some 700 delegates are here from Asia and the Pacific.

Hundreds of the Venezuelan delegates have been taking part in a two-year-long government-sponsored campaign to eliminate illiteracy here. "I am really looking forward to talking to as many of the thousands of youth here as I can over the next week," said Helen León, a teacher who coordinates one of these programs, Mission Sucre, in Tocoyito, a rural area of Carabobo state.

Marching boisterously, the Cuban delegation was among the best-received by the Venezuelan spectators and other delegates. It included more than 1,000 students and other youth who came from the Caribbean island, as well as 700 doctors, athletic instructors, and others who have been serving as internationalist volunteers in Venezuela.

"We are collaborating with the Venezuelan people, who are fighting to take destiny into their hands," said Diego Brunet. He is a physical therapist from Sancti Spíritus province in Cuba who has been volunteering for 14 months in a clinic in Aragua state here as part of the Barrio Adentro ("In the Neighborhood") program. Barrio Adentro has brought quality health care, free of charge, to working-class districts and rural areas that have had little or no ac-

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Militant photos by Argiris Malapanis

Delegates from Western Sahara (left) and Cuba (right) march August 8 at opening parade of 16th World Festival of Youth and Students in Caracas, Venezuela.

Utah coal miners build August 21 solidarity picnic

BY DAVE FERGUSON

PRICE, Utah—In the first week of August an update on the Co-Op coal miners' struggle was sent to dozens of unionists and others who have supported the nearly two-year battle to win a union at the Co-Op mine in Huntington, Utah. The letter included an invitation to a solidarity picnic for the miners to be held on August 21 starting at 11:00 a.m. at Huntington Lake Park. The event is sponsored by District 22 of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA).

The letter, written by Ann Fivecoat, who is active in winning support for the miners' fight, was sent to some 75 people throughout the region. It concludes, "If you cherish your right as a person to stand for fair wages with respect for your rights, stand up and be counted with your support for these miners. This is not just for the Co-Op miners, this is for all working people. Organize at your workplace or join if there is a union already in place."

Ann Fivecoat, together with Bob Fivecoat, a member of UMWA Local 9958, which is made up of retired miners, help organize the Co-Op miners' fund.

"This picnic is so all of the miners can stay in contact with each other. We are inviting many other people to come to see that we are still fighting and what we have won so far," said José Contreras, one of the fired miners.

On August 3, a letter to the editor supporting the Co-Op miners was printed in the local *Sun Advocate*, the first mention in the newspaper of the Co-Op miners' struggle in several months. Published under the heading "Who buys the Coal?" Ned Scarlet, a retired UMWA member from Cleveland, Utah, wrote, "Ever since the current labor dispute at Co-Op Mine began, I have been curious to know who buys the coal produced there. Recently I found out that Aquila, Inc., a power company in Missouri, was a customer of C.W. Mining."

The letter continued, "I have also found that our local power company PacifiCorp is a customer…. I, as a customer of PacifiCorp, find it repulsive that I have indirectly supported C.W. Mining when I've paid my power bill."

On August 4 the *Kansas City Business Journal* reported that Aquila Inc. has sued the C.W. Mining Co. for canceling a contract for 550,000 tons of coal. Aquila owns two power plants in Missouri that use coal from the Co-Op mine. According to the paper, Aquila Chief Operating Officer Keith Stamm said a labor dispute caused the company to break the contract. C.W. Mining has denied any wrongdoing and countersued Aquila for nonpayment.

For more information on the solidarity picnic, contact UMWA District 22 at (435) 637-2037. Messages of support can be sent to the Co-Op miners c/o UMWA District 22, 525 E. 100 S., Price, UT 84501, or faxed to (435) 637-9456.

'New International' sales brisk at festival

BY OLYMPIA NEWTON

CARACAS, Venezuela—Young socialists participating in the World Festival of Youth and Students in this city sold 67 copies of the two newest issues of *New International* in English, Spanish, and French in the first two days of the nine-day event.

We are getting the magazines out on buses, impromptu tables during festival seminars, at the dormitories where participants are staying, and through a booth at the festival's Friendship Fair. The magazines are among the most popular items at the Young Socialists stand. Some 15,000 youth from around the world are attending the festival.

A delegate from Mali bought the French-language *Nouvelle International* nos. 7 and 8, along with the Pathfinder pamphlet *We Are Heirs of the World's Revolutions* by Thomas Sankara. He agreed with the argument presented in the title article of issue no. 8, "Our Politics Start with the World," that access to electricity for economic development in nations oppressed by imperialism is a crucial question for the working people of the world.

Two Cuban doctors serving as internationalist volunteers in the Barrio Adentro medical program in the city of Maracay picked up the twin issues of the Spanish-language *Nueva Internacional.* They described the difficult living conditions facing Venezuelan workers and peasants they have witnessed, despite the fact that the country has a greater national average rate of electrification and industrial development than many other parts of Latin America. They said the struggle to narrow the economic and cultural gap between people in the imperialist countries and the semicolonial world is part of what they are fighting for too.

Many who bought the Marxist magazine were from Venezuela. Several were particularly interested in its analysis of the class struggle in the United States. Helen León, who coordinates the Mission Sucre literacy program in Tocoyito, a rural town in Carabobo state, subscribed to the *Militant* and bought *Nueva Internacional* 6 and 7 after a discussion on the union-organizing struggle by the Co-Op coal miners in Utah. Young socialists have so far sold more than half a dozen *Militant* subscriptions.

In addition, we have sold more than 80 books on revolutionary politics to delegates. Top sellers include 18 copies of titles on the Cuban Revolution, including 8 of *Che Guevara Talks to Young People* in Spanish; 10 books and pamphlets by Thomas Sankara, the central leader of the 1983–87 revolution in Burkina Faso; and 9 by Malcolm X. Also popular are *The Working Class and the Transformation of Learning* and *Abortion Is a Woman's Right*, with 6 copies each.

* * *

UPDATE: On the morning of August 10, *Militant* correspondent Argiris Malapanis reported from Caracas: "I got a text message on my cell phone at 1:00 a.m. this morning from Ólöf Andra Proppé saying the Young Socialists from Iceland sold another four *NI*s on the bus on the way to the villa."

Later in the day, Malapanis phoned in a further update: "45 more people bought *NI*s, for a total of 116 sold at the festival as of today."

New International sales campaign March 26 – August 22

Country	Quota	Sold	%
UNITED KINGDOM			
London	**200**	**214**	**107%**
Edinburgh	55	49	89%
UK total	**255**	**263**	**103%**
CANADA	**150**	**153**	**102%**
NEW ZEALAND			
Auckland	**55**	**53**	**96%**
Christchurch	20	15	75%
N.Z. total	**75**	**68**	**91%**
SWEDEN	45	37	82%
UNITED STATES			
Chicago	**115**	**105**	**91%**
Atlanta	115	104	90%
Houston	105	94	90%
Washington	100	85	85%
Philadelphia	100	84	84%
Twin Cities	140	116	83%
Seattle	130	107	82%
Miami	110	89	81%
New York	325	251	77%
Los Angeles	225	173	77%
Birmingham	95	71	75%
San Francisco	205	152	74%
Newark	125	92	74%
Price, UT	61	43	70%
Des Moines	105	72	69%
Boston	120	81	68%
Pittsburgh	100	57	57%
Salt Lake City	15	7	47%
U.S. total	2291	1783	78%
AUSTRALIA	60	46	77%
ICELAND	32	18	56%
World Youth Festival	250	116	46%
pathfinderpress.com	200	135	68%
Int'l totals	**3358**	**2619**	**78%**
Goals/Should be	**3350**	**3045**	**91%**

—*MILITANT LABOR FORUMS*—

CALIFORNIA
San Francisco
The End of the Irish Republican Army's "Armed Campaign." What It Means for the Struggle against British Rule. Fri., Aug. 19, 7:30 p.m. *3926 Mission St. (415) 584-2135.*

TEXAS
Houston
Meet the Socialist Workers Party Ticket. Speakers: Anthony Dutrow, SWP candidate for mayor; José Aravena, for controller; and Amanda Ulman, for city council at-large, District 1. Sat., Aug. 20, Dinner 6:30 p.m., Program 7:30 p.m. *4200 W. 34th St., Suite C-51A. (713) 869-6550.*

NEW ZEALAND
Auckland
The Historic Trend to Secularism. Fri., Aug. 19, 7:00 p.m. Donation $3. *7 Mason Ave., Otahuhu (09) 276-8885.*

March for voting rights



Militant/Dave Wulp

Atlanta Socialist Workers Party mayoral candidate James Harris (left) campaigning at August 6 voting rights march.

Continued from front page

who killed four Black youths in Monroe, Georgia, in 1946.

Estimates of the size of the action ranged from 13,000 to 20,000.

A prominent focus of the demonstration was opposition to a new Georgia law that represents one of the most serious restrictions on the right to vote. On April 21 Gov. Sonny Perdue signed a bill requiring people to show a government-issued photo ID at the polls before being allowed to vote: either a Georgia driver's license, a state ID card, a military card, or a U.S. passport. The previous law permitted 17 different forms of ID, such as a utility bill or employee ID.

The new legislation will bear down hardest on working people who are immigrants, members of oppressed nationalities, or elderly, who are the most likely not to have the required ID. Voters who are Black are much less likely than whites to own a car and have a driver's license, or to hold a passport. In rural counties some residents don't have birth certificates, which would enable them to easily obtain the ID.

Proponents of the law argue that it is needed to prevent voter fraud. Georgia secretary of state Cathy Cox has stated, however, that she cannot recall a single case during her tenure when anyone impersonated a voter.

Speakers at the rally included Democratic Party politicians such as Atlanta mayor Shirley Franklin and U.S. representatives John Lewis and Maxine Waters.

The Voting Rights Act, passed 40 years ago in the wake of the mass civil rights movement of the 1950s and '60s, ended the use of literacy requirements for voting in several southern states.

One of the provisions up for renewal requires that these states get federal approval before enacting any changes in their election laws. Another provision requires election officials to assist immigrant voters who don't speak English by providing them with voting material in their own language.

Elvee Green, a Detroit auto worker and member of the United Auto Workers union, said her local organized a bus to get her and co-workers to Atlanta. "I had to be here. They are attacking our unions, they're sending us to crazy wars, we have to at least keep our right to vote," she said.

Among those marching were James Harris, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Atlanta, and supporters of his campaign, who were well received. "Our platform drew a lot of interest because of our support to workers' struggles to organize unions and to use and extend union power to defend ourselves from the bosses' assault," Harris told the *Militant.*

Socialist campaigners circulated a statement by Harris that said, "The SWP stands with those who are defending the gains that were made by the massive movement for Black rights of the 1950s and '60s in the United States. The Voting Rights Act of 1965, which outlawed measures that were used to prevent Blacks from voting, must be extended. It is still necessary today because racist practices are still carried out by institutions throughout U.S. society."

The socialist candidate joined in protesting the Voter ID law as an attack on the political rights of working people. This measure, he explained, will also be used as another anti-working-class probe toward establishing a national ID card.

N.Y. meat packers strike for back pay

Continued from front page

every time they bounced the check." Some workers had not received a good check for up to six weeks.

On July 26 the boss, Brian Weiner, posted a notice that nine workers were to be fired, which he claimed was "due to the current financial condition of the company." The list included workers with up to 18 years' seniority in the plant. Workers walked out two days later and began picketing, demanding that the fired workers get their jobs back and that payments be made in cash for all wages owed. The meat packers make between $7 and $14 per hour.

"They thought that we would just go back home and do nothing," said Mercy Manas, the shop steward at the plant. "They didn't expect us to fight."

On Friday, August 5, company representatives told union officials by phone that half of the back wages would be paid in cash at 3:00 p.m. that day.

At 5:10 p.m., a company representative gave the workers one week's wages in cash, instead of paying half of what was owed to them as promised.

UFCW Local 342 representative David Rodriguez then announced that the union had one-week checks from the union strike fund for everyone. Cheers and clenched fists went up as the checks were distributed.

Manas led other strikers in chanting in Spanish "*El lunes aquí!*" meaning the picketing would resume on Monday to press the fight for all back wages to be paid. "The boss said he doesn't want the union. That's so he can pay us what he wants to pay," she said.

"We had to strike. We weren't getting paid for our work," said Olga Baca, who worked at the plant for 18 years and was on the list to be fired. Five of Baca's checks had bounced.

Two UFCW Local 342 members who work at Garden Manor Farms in the Hunts Point Meat Market in the Bronx, Joseph DeJesus and this writer, drove to the picket line after work on August 5 to bring solidarity.

Paul Pederson and Millie Sánchez contributed to this article.



Militant/Dan Fein

UFCW Local 342 members on strike against BMW Meats in Farmingdale, New York, rally by plant August 5 to demand back pay and rehiring of fired workers. At right is Joseph DeJesus, a meat packer from Hunts Point in the Bronx who brought solidarity.

Utah Steelworkers back Militant Fighting Fund

C.W. Mining, owners of the Co-Op coal mine in Huntington, Utah, have filed a harassment lawsuit targeting individuals and unions involved in or supporting the fight of the workers there to organize into the United Mine Workers union. The Militant Fighting Fund was launched to help defend the Militant*, a prominent target of the suit. Endorsements and contributions to the $60,000 fund-raising campaign can be sent to the Militant Fighting Fund, P.O. Box 520994, Salt Lake City, UT 84152-0994. Materials on the case are posted on www.themilitant.com*

BY PAUL MAILHOT

SALT LAKE CITY—Supporters of the Militant Fighting Fund here raised their goal for the second time to $1,400 after several new contributions came in this week. At a meeting with United Steelworkers Local 8-578 in Bountiful, Utah, which represents oil refinery workers, organizers of the fund were given time to explain the latest developments in the fight against the C.W. Mining lawsuit.

After some questions about the suit and a discussion of what the local could do to help the Co-Op miners, one of the union officers proposed donating another $100 to the defense campaign. The hat was also passed and another $135 was chipped in. Margaret Battin, a professor of philosophy at the University of Utah here, also endorsed the defense campaign and made a contribution. Six University of Utah professors have already endorsed and contributed to the fund.

With a little more than one week to go, the Militant Fighting Fund campaign stands at $42,000 collected out of a goal of $60,000. A special effort is needed this week by all defenders of the *Militant* to collect the pledges and send them by the August 15 deadline. All contributions that arrive at the Salt Lake City post office box by 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, August 17 will be counted toward the goal and reported in that week's issue of the *Militant.*

Funds are urgently needed now as the attorneys for the *Militant* prepare to submit a new legal response to the rewritten lawsuit filed by C.W. Mining. Preparations will then begin for the next hearing, which will take up the motions by the three defendant newspapers—the *Militant*, *Salt Lake Tribune*, and *Deseret Morning News*—to dismiss this harassment suit.

Joyce Fairchild from the United Kingdom wrote that she and Jim Spaul participated in the Durham coal miners' gala, a national meeting and march of trade union solidarity organized by the National Union of Mineworkers, and secured the following individual endorsements for the Militant Fighting Fund: Rick Sumner, convenor of the National Justice for Mineworkers campaign; Kevin Kelly, national vice president of the Public and Commercial Services Union; and Ken Capstick, former chairman of Yorkshire's National Union of Mineworkers.

Help raise $60,000 for the Militant Fighting Fund!

Country/City	Quota	Collected	%
NEW ZEALAND			
Auckland	1,100	933	85%
Christchurch	**400**	**495**	**124%**
N.Z. total	**1,500**	**1,428**	**95%**
CANADA	**2,450**	**2,320**	**95%**
AUSTRALIA	1,200	915	76%
UNITED STATES			
Los Angeles	**4,000**	**4,897**	**122%**
Salt Lake City*	**1,400**	**1,293**	**92%**
Houston	**3,000**	**2,740**	**91%**
Birmingham	750	600	80%
Price, UT	1,000	782	78%
Boston	3,000	2,300	77%
San Francisco	6,000	4,500	75%
Miami	3,000	2,090	70%
Des Moines	1,200	820	68%
Chicago	4,700	2,835	60%
New York	8,500	4,820	57%
Twin Cities	2,000	1,087	54%
Philadelphia	3,400	1,845	54%
Newark	1,800	780	43%
Pittsburgh	3,500	1,355	39%
Washington, D.C.	2,000	725	36%
Atlanta	3,750	1,187	32%
Seattle	4,400	1,310	30%
U.S. Other		737	
U.S. total	57,400	36,703	64%
ICELAND		40	
SWEDEN		160	
UNITED KINGDOM		145	
International total	**61,350**	**41,711**	**68%**
Goal/Should be	**60,000**	**54,000**	**90%**

Rather play poker—"Some key U.S. stock market indexes have rallied to record highs



Harry Ring

this week, but many investors aren't coming along for the ride: Inflows into domestic stock mutual funds have slumped 70 percent this year.... Investors put a net $24.8 billion into domestic funds in the first half of the year, compared with the nearly $82 billion they invested in the portfolios in the first half of 2004."—July 29 news item.

True equality—London cops are now making random searches of whites as well as Asians and Blacks. This is supposed to mute the anger of nonwhites when they're the sole target.

Let cops be cops—Richard Barnes, a London-area ranking cop, grumbled: "it's ridiculous to waste time for the purpose of political correctness."

Wheels of injustice—In Sydney, Australia, Peter Qasim, the longest-serving immigration prisoner, has been released after being locked up for seven years. He has been granted a temporary visa. A wire dispatch saw it as reflecting a response to the widely criticized government immigration policy.

Mobilized on the home front—With the tabs in, Palo Alto, California, estimates it cost a whacking $48,000 to rally 300 cops from across the county to overpower 200 protesters against the war in Iraq. Nearby San Jose sent six mounted police. At a previous protest, an official said, a window was broken and two people arrested. The cops estimated the recent action included about 25 anarchists. No weapons of mass destruction were found.

We're humbled—Now and then, we note Los Angeles-area homes fetching as much as $20 million. But an estate in ultra-exclusive Hampton Beach, New York, has been sold as a record-buster. The main home has only three bedrooms, but there are two guest houses. Plus a barn converted into a dining room. A tenant apparently tired of rent and bought it for $90 million.

Canada meat packers face gov't no-strike order

BY JOHN STEELE AND DAVID ROSENFELD

BROOKS, Alberta—Workers at the largest beef slaughterhouse in Canada, Tyson-owned Lakeside Packers, are discussing how to win their first contract after the Alberta provincial government declared a pending strike illegal just hours before workers planned to walk off the job. The 2,300 workers have been members of United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 401 for about 10 months.

Militant reporters spoke with meat packers in the days following the cancellation of the strike. The overwhelming majority say they need a union because of abusive treatment by the bosses, line speed, and injuries in the plant.

At 5:00 a.m. on July 20, some 1,000 workers gathered at the entrance to Lakeside's property to initiate a strike after the company rejected the union's proposal for binding arbitration. Using a bullhorn, Doug O'Halloran, president of Local 401, told the gathered workers that the strike had been called off due to the government order imposing a 60-day "cooling-off period."

Many workers responded with outrage. Ahmed Hiraabe, who says he was fired for supporting the union two days before the aborted strike, said, "For three months the government mediator said a strike would be legal. Then, with no notice, they say it is illegal."

"We were shocked and disoriented by the government's action," said Peter Jany, a processing worker who helped to lead the successful union-organizing drive a year ago and is a member of the union's 23-person bargaining committee. "Many thought the union should not have called the strike off."

Monica Deng, a member of the bargaining committee, moved to Canada from Sudan four years ago. "I thought Canada was a democracy country, a human rights country," she said, condemning the government order. "I thought a big plant like Lakeside would have a union, but we are treated like slaves."

Union officials have organized a door-to-door and plant gate campaign to explain to workers that the government, not the union, was responsible for declaring the cooling-off period. Union staff members have greeted workers at shift changes with a large sign saying, "The government sold you out. Not the Union. We're here to stay."

In April 2004, about 150 workers, many of them Sudanese immigrants, organized a rally in the company parking lot to protest unsafe conditions, company favoritism, abusive treatment by bosses, and the firing of three sanitation workers. After the protest, some 70 workers were fired.

Jany, who was one of the leaders of the protest, tried to convince the company to reinstate the fired workers and address their grievances. When the company rebuffed his efforts, he said he would commit himself to bringing the union into the plant. Last August, 80 percent of the workforce took part in a union representation election, and 51 percent voted for UFCW Local 401.

The organizing drive brought together workers who hail from many parts of the world. At least 16 languages are spoken in the plant and 60 percent of the workers were born outside of Canada, many in East Africa or Asia.

At mass meetings on June 17 and 18 attended by the big majority of the workforce—one held in the town of Brooks and the other in Medicine Hat—workers voted by a 70 percent margin to strike to get their first contract.

Tofik Siyo, originally from Ethiopia, reported that he was fired after he injured his back on the job. "We need a union because people are treated like slaves. You get sick and they don't like you: you get fired," he said.

Worker after worker expressed similar sentiments. Referring to the color of the hard hats worn by bosses, one worker said, "You can't complain or say anything to the green-hats or black-hats. If you do, they say, 'the door is open'" for them to quit.



Militant photos by David Rosenfeld

Unionists at Lakeside Packers in Alberta, Canada, discuss fight to organize 2,300 workers at Tyson-owned beef slaughterhouse. At left, Peter Jany, at right, Monica Deng.

Solomon, a processing worker, said, "I am from Ethiopia and came from a refugee camp in Sudan. I expected Canada to be better, to be good for workers. But it is not." Like others who were interviewed, he held up his swollen, injured hand.

"Almost all the maintenance workers sided with the union this time," said Reuben Mayo, 55, an electrician who is a member of the bargaining committee and has worked at Lakeside for eight years. "This wasn't true at other times. My conditions aren't too bad, but I know what the production workers face every day. That's why I'm in this fight."

The government mediator has until September 15 to make his recommendations. In the meantime, UFCW officials are preparing to put the union's case before the board.

"If there is no fair contract," a Local 401 leaflet announcing the government order stated, "there will be a strike as soon as possible."

"All we can do is keep fighting until we win," said a recently hired processing worker.

John Steele is a member of UFCW Local 175 in Toronto. David Rosenfeld is a meat packer in Seattle.

25, 50, AND 75 YEARS AGO

25 CENTS
THE MILITANT
A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY/PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

August 29, 1980

Poland's biggest strike wave in a decade has rocked the government of President Edward Gierek. Tens of thousands of workers have shut down some 170 factories in the Baltic Sea port cities of Gdansk, Gdynia, and Sopot. The driving force in the struggle are the 17,000 workers at the Lenin shipyard in Gdansk, who have taken over the yard and turned it into an organizing center for the struggle.

Strikes are also reported in other parts of Poland, part of a tide of protest that began welling up on July 1 when the government imposed a sharp increase in meat prices.

Their demands initially centered on a $66 a month wage increase to match price rises and recognition of their right to form a union independent of the Gierek government. But the demands have expanded to include a wide range of democratic and economic rights.

THE MILITANT
PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE
NEW YORK, N.Y. FIVE (5) CENTS

August 22, 1955

YOUNGSTOWN, Aug. 15—The fight that broke out over filling the post of vice-president of the Steelworkers Union is increasing in intensity. Now the staff men, mostly those who are supporting Joseph P. Moloney, the opponent of the Steelworker's Union President David J. McDonald's choice, are organizing a union within the union—an organization that would give job security to the staff men.

Because this is a power struggle within the bureaucracy, it is inevitable that one section of the machine will threaten those who are challenging them for power.

In contrast to this, the workers have shown little interest in the election campaign. Neither side has indicated that it has a program to meet the problems that will be confronting the steelworkers.

THE MILITANT
Weekly Organ of the Communist League of America [Opposition]

September 1, 1930

The constant struggle between British and North American financial interests is clearly discernable in the present military revolt in Peru. Following close on the heels of the fall of the Siles dictatorship in Bolivia, Augusto B. Leguia, dictator of Peru, has been forced to resign the government of that country into the hands of a military committee.

For eleven years, Leguia has served Wall Street well as its Peruvian "vice-roy," being ever ready to support the American imperialist interest against their British rivals as well as against the masses of native peons and workers. Consequently the prisons are filled with political prisoners ranging from the liberal bourgeois elements around Haya de la Torre in the A.P.R.A., which under the veil of the anti-imperialist struggle covers up its services to British capitalism, to the workers' and peasants' leaders who have dared to organize the masses against the imperialist exploitation.

Australia gov't returns troops to Afghanistan, pushes 'antiterror' drive

BY RON POULSEN

SYDNEY, Australia—Following the bombings in London in July, Australia's imperialist rulers seized the moment to press their anti-working-class attacks further at home and abroad in step with their closest allies. The Australian government announced in mid-July that it will send troops back to Afghanistan, for the first time since it joined the 2001 invasion, and will beef up domestic "antiterrorist" measures.

The government of Prime Minister John Howard said it will dispatch 150 Special Air Service (SAS) commandos to Kabul by September. These are likely to operate under U.S. command in the Pakistani border region, where recent intensified clashes with remnants of the Taliban regime have occurred. Australian Labor Party opposition leader Kim Beazley welcomed the Australian commitment to "complete the job."

A further 200 troops will be sent early next year for "reconstruction." Howard said the year-long deployment was timed for the run-up to elections in Afghanistan to help stabilize the imperialist-backed government in Kabul.

In 2001 the Australian government sent more than 1,500 troops to Afghanistan as part of the U.S.-led war there but withdrew from the occupying forces the next year. One Australian SAS soldier was killed in Afghanistan in 2002. The decision to re-send forces there comes after pressure from Washington, London, and NATO officials as well as from Kabul.

London, which recently committed additional forces to Afghanistan, has proposed the Australian military take over command from some British forces in Iraq. According to the London *Sunday Times*, Australian troops are already assuming control in parts of southern Iraq from British forces to allow their redeployment to Afghanistan.

The Howard government, part of the U.S.-led "coalition of the willing" invasion force, has always insisted Australian forces would remain in Iraq "until the job is finished." There are 1,400 Australian military personnel in and around Iraq.

In London after the July 21 failed bomb attacks, Howard announced plans to further beef up "antiterrorism" laws, saying Australia's rulers were impeded by "19th century legal responses to 21st century terrorist behaviour."

Beazley proposed "flying squads" of counterterrorism agents to patrol public transport. State Labor Party premiers have called for a national "antiterrorism" summit to discuss even tougher security laws and measures. Proposals for a national identity card and expanded police powers, including longer detentions without charges and random bag searches, are being floated.

Farm workers rally for contract in San Francisco



Militant/Laura Anderson

SAN FRANCISCO—Hundreds of farm workers and their supporters rallied July 17 at Dolores Park here and then marched to San Francisco's Mission District in support of a nationwide boycott of wines produced by the E&J Gallo Winery. The workers, members of the United Farm Workers union, are fighting for the extension of health-care and pension benefits to contract workers hired seasonally to pick grapes and tend the vines. Last April, the Gallo workers won a 20-cent wage increase bringing the base pay to $8.38 per hour.

—LAURA ANDERSON

Cuban Five score gain in fight for freedom

Continued from front page

of anything," said McKenna, adding that the defense attorneys will now ask that the five be freed on bail while awaiting retrial. They have been jailed since 1998, when they were arrested by the FBI under the Clinton administration.

"What the U.S. government should do is grant them freedom immediately," said Ricardo Alarcón, president of Cuba's National Assembly, according to the Cuban weekly *Granma International*. Cuba's revolutionary leadership has been waging a vigorous campaign, at home and internationally, for the release of the five.

"There remains a long road ahead before they return to Cuba," said Adriana Pérez, who is married to Hernández, "but we have fought, and we know that we are defending a just cause because we have maintained our positions and have not crumbled despite the injustices committed against us," *Granma International* reported.

Pérez and other relatives of the Cuban Five are in Caracas, Venezuela, participating in the 16th World Festival of Youth and Students.

The ruling is "a real victory," said Max Lesnik, a leader of Miami-based Alianza Martiana, in an August 10 phone interview. "These people are innocent. The only espionage they committed was to protect the Cuban and American people from the terrorism of the right-wing Cuban exile community in Miami." Alianza Martiana is a Cuban-American group that opposes the U.S. embargo against Cuba.

Gerardo Hernández, Fernando González, René González, Antonio Guerrero, and Ramón Labañino were convicted in a frame-up trial in 2001 on charges of conspiracy to commit espionage, to act as unregistered foreign agents, and—in the case of Hernández—to commit murder. Guerrero and Labañino were given life sentences, and René González and Fernando González were sentenced to 15 and 19 years, respectively.

Hernández was serving a double life sentence on charges of responsibility for the 1996 death of four pilots, members of the rightist group Brothers to the Rescue, who were shot down by the Cuban air force while carrying out provocative violations of Cuban air space.

The five were in the United States on a mission from the Cuban government to monitor the activities of Cuban-American counterrevolutionary organizations based in Miami that have a history of carrying out violent attacks against Cuba with the complicity of the U.S. government.

The judges cited numerous examples—from the jury selection, to the testimony in court, to the media circus that surrounded the trial, as well as "the government's use of inflammatory statements during closing arguments"—as factors that made it impossible for the men to receive a fair trial.

During jury selection, for example, the individual chosen as jury foreman, David Buker, said, "Castro is a communist dictator and I am opposed to communism so I would like to see him gone." Numerous prospective jurors were disqualified because they said they could not give an impartial ruling for fear of retribution from right-wing forces when they returned to their jobs and communities in Miami.

During the trial, some jurors complained that they were filmed by reporters for right-wing TV stations as they left the courthouse, including the license numbers on their cars.

Guerrero's attorney, Leonard Weinglass, told the August 9 press conference that the U.S. attorney now had a choice between requesting a review of the three-judge panel's ruling by the full appeals court, or accepting the decision and preparing for a retrial.

If no appeal is granted, he said, then the five are supposed to be transferred to a detention center in Miami. Following their convictions, the five were dispersed to prisons far away from each other as part of Washington's efforts to isolate them from their supporters and break them.

"They have to be treated like all pretrial prisoners," McKenna said in an August 9 phone interview. "In that situation you have unlimited access to your attorney like they did after they were first arrested. You can use the telephone. Defendants who are preparing a joint defense, as the five are, get to meet together, get to spend time together with their lawyers and full access to materials to prepare their defense."

McKenna added that the five would renew their petition to be allowed visits from their relatives in Cuba. Adriana Pérez and Olga Salanueva, who is married to René González, have repeatedly been denied entry into the United States to visit their imprisoned husbands.

The U.S. National Committee to Free the Five has launched a renewed campaign to demand the U.S. government grant immediate entry visas to Pérez and Salanueva.

Polisario leader: 'Saharawis have not given up fight for independence'

BY LINDA HARRIS

SYDNEY, Australia—Protests for independence and against Moroccan repression have continued to take place since late May in the country of Western Sahara in northwest Africa despite the harsh crackdown of the occupying Moroccan forces. The Saharawi people, led by the Polisario Front, have waged a 30-year struggle against the Moroccan regime, which invaded their country after they had won independence from Spain, the former colonial power.

Kamal Fadel, the Polisario Front's representative to Australia, commented on the struggle in a July 30 interview with the *Militant*. "The continuing protests show the total failure of Morocco to win the hearts and minds of the people and show the determination and strong will of the Saharawis for independence," Fadel said.

The occupying army and police responded to the protests with brutal force, attacking demonstrations and beating and arresting protesters. Prison sentences of up to 20 years have been dealt out to some of those imprisoned. Twelve detainees were sentenced July 12 to eight years in prison by a Moroccan court.

"By getting out in the streets and by demonstrating—this is the true referendum on self-determination," he said, referring to the long-delayed United Nations sponsored agreement reached in 1991 to hold a referendum in Western Sahara.

"The UN has not been willing to exert pressure on the Moroccan regime," Fadel said. The Moroccan monarchy is firmly backed by Washington, Madrid, and Paris. The UN and most countries, he said, have been silent on the latest abuse of rights of the Saharawi people.

1.4 million with past felony sentences are barred from voting

BY ARRIN HAWKINS

Some 1.4 million people in 14 states are excluded from voting after completing a felony sentence. They are disenfranchised through the imposition of onerous fines, lengthy paroles and probations, and other restrictions. If the number currently incarcerated is added, then 4.7 million individuals in the United States are barred from voting, according to the Sentencing Project, a prisoner advocacy group.

"Losing the right to vote is not part of a criminal sentence—it is a collateral consequence dictated by state laws," stated Unlock the Block, a New York–based group, in a statement explaining its efforts to overturn the state's disenfranchisement laws.

In New York, former prisoners and their relatives have joined in protests called by Unlock the Block, which filed a lawsuit against Governor George Pataki aimed at repealing that legislation. The organization is part of a national coalition that is waging a campaign to win voting rights for former prisoners.

Five states—Kentucky, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, and Virginia—permanently prohibit individuals from voting after serving a felony conviction. The only exception is if they receive a state pardon, which is rare and difficult to obtain.

In Kentucky, individuals with felon convictions seeking to vote are required by law to submit three "character references" along with an application to regain their voting rights. Alabama state law establishes that "pardons" can be requested after three years of parole.

In Florida a person can apply for a state "clemency" 10 years after they have completed their prison sentence. "Out of the 613,514 ex-felons in Florida (as of 2000), just 48,000 had their voting rights restored between 1998 and 2004," reported a March 1 *Christian Science Monitor* article.



José A. Rivera/EDLP

Demonstration June 22 outside courthouse in New York City in support of lawsuit demanding repeal of state's disenfranchisement law, which bars individuals who served out felony convictions from voting while they are on parole.

In Washington State, people not only can't vote while on probation or parole, but must also first pay all court-imposed debts, including fines and "victim reparations" fees. The 12 percent annual interest "building up over years makes it almost impossible for someone to pay off their debt," noted a June 26 *Seattle Times* article.

"We don't let them get their gun rights back and they shouldn't get their voting rights back unless they have demonstrated they are law-abiding citizens," David Muhlhausen of the right-wing Heritage Foundation told the Seattle daily.

In June the state of Iowa restored voting rights to people released from prison after felony convictions. Previously, individuals there had to submit a petition to the governor for voting approval. In March, Nebraska, which previously barred individuals with a felony record from voting unless they received a pardon, restored voting rights two years after completion of prison sentences and after probation and parole requirements have been met.

The number of people on probation, parole, and serving time in U.S. prisons increased sharply over the past decade, reaching nearly 7 million in 2003, according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

The numbers jumped dramatically during the 1990s. Under the Clinton administration, prisoners' rights of appeal and parole were further restricted. A number of misdemeanors were reclassified as felonies, sentences were increased for many offenses, and the use of mandatory minimum sentences was widened, especially for drug offenses.

In New York State, under the notorious Rockefeller drug laws, which impose draconian mandatory minimum sentences, 30,000 people a year are indicted for drug felonies. Some convictions carry a penalty of 15 years to life in prison for a first-time offense.

Oppressed nationalities are most affected by the disenfranchisement laws. Blacks and Latinos are disproportionately incarcerated or under parole or probation restrictions, largely as a result of drug laws. Of the 4.7 million people who cannot vote because of felony convictions, 1.4 million—nearly 30 percent—are African American, with a similar rate for Latinos.

Scotland: bus drivers in Edinburgh conduct walkouts for increased pay

BY PETE CLIFFORD

EDINBURGH, Scotland—In an intense week of activity in their fight for a £9 (US$16) per hour wage, bus drivers have organized a two-day walkout against Lothian Buses, a wildcat strike, and mass meetings that voted for an all-out strike. By the end of the week the company had offered a new pay package under which the drivers will receive a 6 percent wage increase to £9 starting in December. The 1,400 members of the Transport and General Workers Union (T&G) will be voting on the pay offer in mid-August.

The drivers first struck July 18 and began an overtime ban in response to a 5 percent pay offer that changed the contract for some drivers with worse working conditions. After this strike the bosses withdrew the proposed concessions but reduced their pay offer. Sensing they could make more progress, the drivers struck again over the July 30 weekend.

"Not a bus has moved," explained striking bus driver Ally Fraser outside the Annandale Street Bus depot here on July 30. Fraser and other pickets were buoyed by the failure that morning of the bosses' attempt to bring in strikebreakers. "No one has crossed," he reported. "This is our first strike in more than 25 years," said T&G branch chairman Peter Williamson.

Boosted by their success, the unionists voted at mass meetings August 1 for an all-out strike beginning nine days later. The bosses responded with a propaganda campaign that included company chairman Pilmar Smith issuing a personal letter and "ballot" to the drivers August 3 urging them to vote on the company's latest offer over the heads of the union.

"They are just trying to split the union up," explained driver John Kerhaw. Within hours of the company letter a wildcat walkout began. Workers gathered outside the depots, refusing to work, as the city bus service began grinding to a halt. Drivers returned to work after three hours on the urging of union officials. "I didn't realize how far the drivers were prepared to take it," said Williamson.

The next day Lothian Buses issued a new pay offer of £8.78 backdated to March, £9 starting in December, and £9.50 from March 2007. The unionists will vote on the proposal later this month.

Meanwhile, drivers at First Bus in Scotland have rejected a company offer of a 3 percent wage increase. Their vote on strike action will be completed by August 22, reported *Scotland Today.*

Contract bus drivers in Los Angeles strike over cuts in pay and benefits

BY NAOMI CRAINE

LOS ANGELES—"It's unacceptable," declared bus driver Jorge Pereyra, walking the picket line in front of Transportation Concepts here August 3. He was referring to the company's plan to slash wages of bus drivers on two routes from $14 to $10 per hour, and cut sick leave and vacation benefits. Transportation Concepts recently won the contract to operate the lines for the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA). The routes had previously been operated by another contractor, First Transit, which had a contract with Teamsters Local 848.

Three dozen Teamsters struck August 1, demanding that Transportation Concepts honor the terms of their union contract.

The company is insisting that the drivers, who have been working these routes for as long as nine years, are now "new hires," who will start at $10 per hour and reach a top wage of $11.25 per hour after five years—the length of the contractor's agreement with the city. Strikers are picketing the company's Los Angeles depot from 4:00 a.m. to midnight every day. The bus routes are operating with replacement drivers, but strikers say there have been many delays.

The MTA operates about 200 bus routes directly, and contracts out 21 routes with low ridership. The contractors generally pay much lower wages than the MTA, where drivers are members of the United Transportation Union and those with seniority earn more than $20 per hour.

"What we're doing is building confidence in the union," said Louis Minnefield, a picket captain and shop steward in Teamsters Local 848. He noted that Transportation Concepts has refused to honor other union agreements on contracts it has won before, but this time workers have stood up. "They don't want these drivers talking to us," Minnefield added, referring to those who were employed by Transportation Concepts before it acquired the new routes. "They're watching them like hawks."

On the picket line August 5, one of these contract drivers, Mike Alecio, explained that he was being paid $8.25 an hour. When the members of Teamsters Local 848 walked out he signed a union card and said, "I'm on strike."

Seth Dellinger contributed to this article.

Debs on opposition to first imperialist world war

The following is an excerpt from Eugene V. Debs Speaks*, one of Pathfinder's Books of the Month for August. Debs (1855–1926) was a pioneer socialist agitator and labor leader in the early years of the socialist movement in the United States. He effectively used election campaigns to popularize socialist ideas, running for president five times. In 1920, Debs gained 1 million votes while in prison for opposing the*

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

interimperialist slaughter of World War I. The section below is from a June 16, 1918, speech he delivered to the state convention of the Socialist Party of Ohio, held in Canton. It was a speech for which he was sentenced to 10 years in prison. The talk refers to Tom Mooney and Warren Billings, two union organizers framed up in 1916 on murder charges and imprisoned, after a bomb exploded at a parade in San Francisco backing "preparedness" for World War I. Copyright © 1970 by Pathfinder Press. Reprinted by permission.



Socialist leader Eugene V. Debs speaking in Canton, Ohio, on June 16, 1918.

BY EUGENE V. DEBS

I have just returned from a visit over yonder [pointing to the workhouse], where three of our most loyal comrades are paying the penalty for their devotion to the cause of the working class. They have come to realize, as many of us have, that it is extremely dangerous to exercise the constitutional right of free speech in a country fighting to make democracy safe in the world.

I realize that, in speaking to you this afternoon, there are certain limitations placed upon the right of free speech. I must be exceedingly careful, prudent, as to what I say, and even more careful and prudent as to how I say it. I may not be able to say all I think; but I am not going to say anything that I do not think. I would rather a thousand times be a free soul in jail than to be a sycophant and coward in the streets.

Are we opposed to Prussian militarism? [Shouts from the crowd of "Yes. Yes.] Why, we have been fighting it since the day the Socialist movement was born; and we are going to continue to fight it, day and night, until it is wiped from the face of the earth. Between us there is no truce—no compromise.

I hate, I loathe, I despise junkers and junkerdom. I have no earthly use for the junkers of Germany, and not one particle more use for the junkers in the United States.

They tell us that we live in a great free republic; that our institutions are democratic; that we are a free and self-governing people. This is too much, even for a joke.

These are the gentry who are today wrapped up in the American flag, who shout their claim from the housetops that they are the only patriots, and who have their magnifying glasses in hand, scanning the country for evidence of disloyalty, eager to apply the brand of treason to the men who dare to even whisper their opposition to junker rule in the United Sates. No wonder Sam Johnson declared that "patriotism is the last refuge of the scoundrel." He must have had this Wall Street gentry in mind, or at least their prototypes, for in every age it has been the tyrant, the oppressor and the exploiter who has wrapped himself in the cloak of patriotism, or religion, or both to deceive and overawe the people.

They would have you believe that the Socialist Party consists in the main of disloyalists and traitors. It is true in a sense not at all to their discredit. We frankly admit that we are disloyalists and traitors to the real traitors of this nation; to the gang that on the Pacific coast are trying to hang Tom Mooney and Warren Billings in spite of their well-known innocence and the protest of practically the whole civilized world.

Socialism is a growing idea; an expanding philosophy. It is spreading over the entire face of the earth. It is as vain to resist it as it would be to arrest the sunrise on the morrow. It is coming, coming, coming all along the line.

Aye, all our hearts now throb as one great heart responsive to the battle cry of the social revolution. Here, in this alert and inspiring assemblage our hearts are with the Bolsheviki of Russia. Those heroic men and women, those unconquerable comrades have by their incomparable valor and sacrifice added fresh luster to the fame of the international movement.

They have laid the foundation of the first real democracy that ever drew the breath of life in this world. And the very first act of the triumphant Russian revolution was to proclaim a state of peace with all mankind, coupled with a fervent moral appeal, not to kings, not to emperors, rulers or diplomats but to *the people* of all nations. Here we have the very breath of democracy, the quintessence of the dawning freedom. The Russian revolution proclaimed its glorious triumph in its ringing and inspiring appeal to *the peoples* of all the earth.

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EDITORIAL

Free the Cuban Five!

Working people have reason to celebrate the recent victory in the fight to win the release of five Cubans locked up in U.S. prisons on frame-up charges. A federal appeals court threw out their convictions and ordered a new trial. This victory provides a fresh opportunity to tell the truth about the Cuban Five and win broader support in the campaign for their freedom.

With these convictions reversed, the U.S. government should now release the five Cuban revolutionaries, who have already spent seven years behind bars. Washington, which for years has callously refused visas for Adriana Pérez and Olga Salanueva to see their jailed husbands, Gerardo Hernández and René González, should immediately grant them entry.

The appeals court accepted the defense argument that they were denied a fair trial because of the pervasive prejudice in the Miami federal courtroom. But that was only part of the travesty of justice. That the U.S. government had no case against the five was shown by the fact that they were accused of "conspiracy" to commit espionage and other charges. Even so, the federal prosecutors never proved their case during the trial.

The source of the frame-up, however, is not in Miami but in Washington. What is the real "crime" of Hernández, Fernando González, René González, Antonio Guerrero, and Ramón Labañino? They carried out a mission in defense of their country by monitoring the activities of counterrevolutionary Cuban-American groups that have a long record of conducting violent attacks on Cuba from U.S. soil with Washington's complicity. The U.S. billionaire rulers have waged a brutal economic—and sometimes military—war against Cuba for 46 years. This is not the result of the influence of a handful of rightist Cuban-American businessmen in Miami, but because of the "dangerous" example of Cuba's socialist revolution that Wall Street seeks to crush. Cuban workers and farmers made a revolution, took state power, broke free from imperialist domination, and began to build a society based not on exploitation but on working-class solidarity—extending their hand to others fighting oppression around the world.

The Cuban Five are exemplary fighters who have devoted their lives to defending the gains of Cuban workers and farmers in face of imperialist aggression. Three of these internationalists were among the tens of thousands of Cuban volunteer combatants who helped defend Angola from invasion by the racist South African regime in the 1970s and 80s.

The Cuban Five have continued to carry out political work behind prison bars: telling the truth about the Cuban Revolution, extending their support to other struggles for justice—and learning firsthand about the brutal capitalist "justice" that millions of working people face in the U.S. prison system. That is why the U.S. authorities have tried to isolate and break them, and why those attempts have failed.

We join with democratic-minded people around the world in demanding: Free the Cuban Five! Grant entry visas to their spouses!

Seattle: SWP mayoral candidate condemns ballot restriction for past felony convictions

BY BETSY FARLEY

SEATTLE—Chris Hoeppner, the Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor here, condemned the attempt of King County prosecutors to remove mayoral candidate Omari Tahir-Garrett from the ballot because of a prior felony conviction.

"Denial of the right to vote and run for political office to those who have served out felony sentences is an attack on the rights of the working class and should be opposed by all working people and supporters of democratic and civil rights," Hoeppner said in an August 7 statement.

Hoeppner pointed out that more than 150,000 people, 3.7 percent of the voting population in Washington state—more than double the national average—are denied voting rights because they served time on a felony conviction. Individuals cannot vote while they are on parole or probation, or until they pay sometimes onerous court costs.

"These restrictions serve to disenfranchise working people who are Black in disproportionate numbers," Hoeppner continued. "While Blacks make up only 3 percent of the state's population, 22 percent of those incarcerated here are Black. One in four African-American men in Washington are not allowed to vote."

Nationwide, 1.4 million people who completed their sentences are barred from voting because of similar restrictions, the Socialist Workers candidate noted.

Prosecutors are challenging Tahir-Garrett's voter registration, raising the threat of a new felony charge that he "knowingly signed a false statement" on the voter registration document that says he was "not presently denied any civil rights as the result of being convicted of a felony." Tahir-Garrett was convicted in 2002 on a second-degree assault charge of striking then-mayor Paul Schell with a bullhorn.

"The Socialist Workers Party calls for overturning all anti-democratic laws limiting the right to vote and run for political office," Hoeppner declared. "We back the right of Tahir-Garrett to remain on the ballot and oppose any criminal charges against him for registering to vote."

World Youth Festival in Venezuela

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cess to medical care.

Cuban delegates also carried portraits of the five Cuban revolutionaries imprisoned in the United States on frame-up charges of conspiracy to commit espionage for the Cuban government and banners demanding their freedom. That morning, a federal appeals court in Atlanta threw out their convictions and granted a defense motion for a new trial.

"Cuba yes, blockade no!" chanted hundreds of U.S. delegates as they passed by the Cuban contingent, referring to Washington's economic war against Cuba. A range of views were expressed in their other slogans. Many of them chanted "Bush out!" A group from western Pennsylvania, on the other hand, carried a banner demanding "U.S. Out Now! Iraq, Afghanistan, Korea, Guantánamo Bay, Djibouti, Yugoslavia."

Members and supporters of the Young Socialists in the United States carried a banner that read "Access to nuclear technology is a right of all oppressed nations, imperialists hands off Iran and north Korea," which sparked debate. A number of U.S. delegates said it was not appropriate because nuclear power is not safe. Others, especially youth from Venezuela, came over to express agreement with the Young Socialists for their stance.

At the conclusion the delegates were addressed by Venezuelan president Hugo Chávez; David Velásquez, president of Venezuela's National Preparatory Committee, which hosted the festival; and Miguel Madeira, president of the World Federation of Democratic Youth.

"The planet needs a political revolution to bring about real democracies, supported by the people, and not the false democracies of the elite," Chávez said. He denounced Washington's campaign to support major sections of the Venezuelan capitalist class that have tried—unsuccessfully—to overthrow his administration. Chávez said Venezuela will defend the "freedom of our land" if the U.S. government were to launch any military action.

The festival includes workshops, cultural events, and visits to some of Venezuela's provinces. It lasts through August 15.

Arrin Hawkins contributed to this article.

UK rulers probe attacks on rights

Continued from front page

Democratic Party, because they risked "inflaming tensions and alienating Muslims."

Meanwhile, the police have now indicted three of the four individuals they say were involved in the July 21 events.

Several of the proposed measures would allow British authorities to victimize people on the basis of views they advocate. Blair said the government was going to ban three public political groups: Hizb-ut-Tahrir, the Saviour Sect, and al-Ghurabaa.

The *Times* reported some "disarray" in government circles over this ban. Contrary to what Blair had implied, new laws would have to be approved to implement such a ban, the paper reported.

"Hizb-ut-Tahrir is a nonviolent political party," said the group's spokesperson, Imran Waheed, the Associated Press reported. "Our members are all for political expression, not for violence." He said the group would fight any ban through the courts.

At an August 7 Muslim Unity conference of 2,000 in Manchester, Mohammed Shafiq of the Ramadhan Foundation opposed the ban. "In terms of our values here in the UK, there are civil rights and liberties which give all groups a right to express their views," he said.

The Muslim Council of Britain and Mohammed Naseem, chairman of Birmingham's central mosque, strongly opposed the proposed ban and other measures, while Omar Farooq of the Islamic Society of Britain supported it.

At the press conference Blair said the government would soon detail new grounds for deportations, based on existing laws, on the basis of "fostering hatred, advocating violence to further a person's beliefs, or justifying or validating such violence."

The British government is barred by law from deporting individuals to countries where they may face torture or death. Government officials said they are seeking promises from several governments—including Algeria, Tunisia, and Egypt—that those deported will not be mistreated. They said they reached such an agreement with Jordan.

At one point it was reported that British officials were considering charges of treason against three individuals—Omar Bakri Mohammed, Abu Izzadeen, and Abu Uzair—based on taped speeches and comments. This reportedly includes remarks by Bakri in defense of those who attack British troops in Afghanistan or Iraq. The government has since denied those reports.

If the new measures are implemented, "active engagement" with certain "websites, bookshops, networks, centres and particular organisations of concern" that government authorities label as "extremist" will become grounds for deportation.

Blair said a law would be introduced to prohibit British residents from "condoning terrorism." Places of worship deemed centers for "fomenting extremism" would be closed.

Further proposals include: broader grounds to refuse asylum, expedited extradition, beefed-up border controls, and a review of the "threshold" for granting British citizenship.

Blair also seeks expanded use of house arrest against British citizens; a "significant" increase in police powers to detain "terrorist suspects" without charge; and broader powers to strip individuals of their citizenship.

The right-wing *Sun* called for imposing house arrest on George Galloway, a member of Parliament for the Respect Coalition, which includes the British Socialist Workers Party. It branded Galloway a "traitor" because he referred to the forces mounting attacks in Iraq on the occupying U.S. and British troops as "heroic."

London's Labour Party mayor, Kenneth Livingstone, said he supported laws banning groups that support "terrorist attacks" as long as they were worded "precisely." Former Labour government minister John Denham, however, termed the proposed measures "half-baked ideas."

At an August 4 rally organized by the Stop the War coalition, Galloway responded to the *Sun's* accusations. Taking a nationalist position, he called members of the Blair government the "real traitors" to "this country, its interests, and the men and women who wear its uniform."